IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A signal format stored on a computer readable medium that can be accessed by a computer system as a file, comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein~~ the ~~or each of the~~ System and the one or more of the[[,]] Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each ~~comprises~~ comprising:

a Label having a predetermined number of bytes, and including at least one byte identifying the Item;

a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item; ~~and the data of the Item.~~

one or more Element data blocks; and

an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item,

wherein the system Item includes metadata relating to one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

2.   (Currently Amended) A signal format for use in a system which transfers data to and/or from an SDTI system, the signal format comprising a Serial Digital Transport Interface (SDTI) Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein the or each of~~ the System and the one or more of the[[,]] Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each ~~comprises~~ comprising:

a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item; ~~and the data of the Item;~~ one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item;

each Item being modified in that a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and identifying the Item replaces the Start Code of the Item and the End Code of the Item is removed and the data of the System Item includes ~~metada~~metadata relating to the or each of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the Content Package.

3.   (Original) A signal format according to claim 1, wherein the Label has a fixed number of bytes having preassigned values and at least one byte of variable value for identifying an item.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) A signal format according to claim 4, wherein each Element data block comprises:

at least one word indicating the number of words in the Element, and if greater than zero, at least one word defining the type of element and at least one word indicating the number of the Element, and the data of the Element.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently Amended) A signal format according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said metadata includes link metadata which links metadata relating to an Element to the Element to which it relates.

8.   (Currently Amended) A signal format according to claim 2, wherein the Label has a predetermined fixed format except for ~~the~~ said byte identifying the Item.

9.   (Currently Amended) A file for storage in a computer system, the file comprising:

a concatenation of one or more SDTI Content Packages, ~~as defined in claim 2.~~
the Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System and one or more of the Picture, Audio

and Auxiliary Items each comprising a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item; one or more element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item; each Item being modified in that a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and identifying the Item replaces the Start Code of the Item and the End Code of the Item is removed, and the data of the System Item includes metadata relating to the or each of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the Content Package.

        10.   (Original) A file according to claim 9, comprising a concatenation of a plurality of Content Packages, each Content Package including one video frame.

        11.   (Original) A file according to claim 10, wherein the frames are compressed video frames.

        12.   (Currently Amended) A method of producing a signal, comprising:

forming a Content Package by concatenating at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item,

the ~~or each of the~~ System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items being formed by concatenating:

a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and including at least one byte identifying the Item;

a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item; ~~and the data of the Item.~~

one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item, and

providing within the system item metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

        13.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming a signal comprising the steps of:

receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, wherein the or each of the System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises comprising a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, the data of the Item one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the item, and an end code;

removing the start and end codes identifying the Item type; and:

inserting a Label in place of the start code, the label having a predetermined number of bytes, and at least one byte identifying the Item, and[[.]]

providing in the System item metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming a signal according to claim 13, wherein the Label has a predetermined fixed format except for the said byte identifying the Item.

15.   (Previously Presented) A method of forming a file for storage in a computer system, comprising concatenating one or more Content Packages as defined in claim 12.

16.   (Original) A method of forming a file for storage in a computer system, comprising concatenating a plurality of Content Packages, each Content Package being formed by the method of claim 13.

17.   (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein each Content Package includes one video frame.

18.   (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the frames are compressed video frames.

19.   (Original) A method of transferring video data within a computer network, comprising: forming a file containing the video data by the method of claim 17; and transferring the file.

20.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for forming a content package, comprising:

an input for receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having ~~at least~~ a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein the or each of~~ the System, <u>and one or more of the</u> Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items <u>each</u> ~~comprises~~ <u>comprising</u>:

a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, ~~the data of the Item~~ <u>one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, and indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item,</u> and an end code; and

a format converter for removing the start and end codes; and for inserting a Label in place of the start code, the Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item.[[.]] <u>wherein the System item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.</u>

21.   (Original) Apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a signal source for producing the SDTI signal.

22.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising a buffer for storing the SDTI signal and providing it to ~~the~~ <u>said</u> removing and inserting means.

23.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a computer system having a ~~store~~ <u>storage</u> for storing files, ~~the~~ <u>said</u> format converter being an interface between ~~the~~ said signal source for producing the SDTI signal and the computer system.

24.   (Original) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the computer system comprises a network of file stores linked by a file transfer system.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming a signal comprising the steps: of:

receiving an signal comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein~~ the ~~or each of the~~ System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each ~~comprises~~ comprising a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, ~~and the data of the Item~~one or more Element data blocks, and having an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item; removing the Label of each Item; inserting a start code and Item type word in place of the Label; and inserting an end code to thereby produce an SDTI signal,[[.]] wherein the System Item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

26.   (Currently Amended) A format converter comprising:

an input for receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein~~ the ~~or each of the~~ System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprising ~~comprises~~ a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, ~~the data of the Item~~one or more Element data blocks, an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item, and an end code; and

means for removing the start and end codes; and the Item type word and for inserting a Label in place of the start code, the Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item,[[.]] wherein the System Item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

27. (Currently Amended) A format converter according to claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ said means comprises a multiplexer having first and second inputs and an output, a first store for storing the Label coupled to the first input, a second store for storing the SDTI signal, and a

controller for reading the Label out of the first store for supply to the first input followed by reading the word count and the data out of the second store for supply to the second input.

      28.   (Currently Amended) A format converter comprising:

      an input for receiving a signal comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, ~~wherein~~ the ~~or each of the~~ System, and one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each ~~comprises~~ comprising a[[,]] Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, ~~and the data of the Item; and~~ one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item,

      means for removing the Label of each Item, and for inserting a start code and Item type word in place of the Label, and for inserting an end code, to thereby produce an SDTI signal,[[.]] and

      means for providing metadata within the System Item relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

      29.   (Currently Amended) A format converter according to claim 28, wherein ~~the~~ said means comprises a multiplexer having first second and third inputs and an output, a first store for storing the start code coupled to the first input, a second store for storing an Item and coupled to the second input and a third store for storing the end code and coupled to the third input, and a controller for reading the start code out of the first store for supply to the first input, followed by reading the Item type word, the word count and the data out of the second store for supply to the second input and followed by reading the end code out of the third store for supply to the third input, to thereby produce the SDTI signal.

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